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NEWS AND COMMENTS

The following committees have been appointed to serve during the current year for the Mississippi valley historical association: program, John W. Oliver, Indianapolis, chairman, Theodore C. Blegen, Wayland J. Chase, Oliver M. Dickerson, Walter L. Fleming, Paul Leland Haworth; nominating, Albert H. Sanford, La Crosse, Wisconsin, chairman, Otto L. Schmidt, Orin G. Libby; local arrangements, W. W. Sweet, Greencastle, Indiana, chairman.

British-American discords and concords is the title of a little volume published by G. P. Putnam's Sons (New York, 1918. 85 p. $.75) It is compiled by the History circle of New York, an organization composed of historians of authority, business men, editors, writers, and others. This monograph is the result of a year's labor of a committee of these members. It is a concise, authoritative survey of three epochs in American history: 1607-1763, 1763-1815, and 1815-1898; it shows in a truly historical manner the relations existing between England and America which tended toward a feeling of discord, and how through a present-day study of those same conditions a feeling of harmony has arisen. An excellent bibliography accompanies the text. The maiden effort of the History circle should receive commendation and it is to be hoped that more monographs will be given to the public from the same source.

"Important as the formal work of the Peace Congress may be there is a more fundamental and permanent work of reconstruction that must fall on each nation — a reconstruction built on the hopes, the convictions, the struggles, the dreams of the peoples." This is the view taken by Mr. Cecil Fairfield Lavell in his book, *Reconstruction and national life* (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 193 p. $1.60). The author does not claim to give more than an introductory survey of Europe's problems of reconstruction, limiting his study to four peoples, the French, German, Russian, and British. His style is clear and interesting and the book should be an incentive to further study of this important problem. A brief index is provided but no bibliography.

In contrast with the above mentioned book is one on the same subject of reconstruction by Herbert Quick, entitled *From war to peace* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill company, 1919. 278 p. $1.50). A practical treatment of the problem is here offered rather than an historical ap-

proach to the subject. The author makes a plea for education, regarding that as a panacea for the prevailing ills following as aftermath of the great war. The problem of unemployment he thinks should not come up, since there is plenty of necessary work "that aches to be done."

A little book entitled *The great issue*, "disclosed by the leaders and the plain people in Europe and America" (Boston: Marshall Jones company, 1919. 46 p. $1.00 net) is chiefly a compilation of extracts from the speeches of President Wilson and other public men. Although few comments are supplied by the author, John Farwell Moss, his object is to show President Wilson's purpose "a scheme of world salvation." Extracts of speeches are often misleading when taken out of their setting, and one can not help feeling that the subject has been treated too briefly. In order to make his point emphatic the editor should give longer quotations and fuller explanations.

Two suggestive pamphlets were issued recently by the American association for international conciliation, one regarding the league of nations, and the other on the peace conference.

Volume IV of the *Journal of the National institute of social sciences* is devoted to a discussion of reconstruction after the war. Reports on various phases of the subject are given by Thorstein Veblen, George E. Roberts, Grosvenor Atterbury, and others.

A convenient little volume of obvious usefulness is the bibliography of the Monroe doctrine recently issued by the Library of Congress. It was compiled under the direction of Mr. Herman H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer, and contains a wide range of references.

Anyone owning contemporary letters, documents, or other historical materials pertaining to George Washington's southern tour in 1791 is respectfully requested to communicate with Archibald Henderson, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, who is preparing a book on the subject.

On Tuesday, April 22, 1919, Pittsburgh celebrated the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of its incorporation as a borough. As this was also the centennial year of the incorporation of the Western university of Pennsylvania, now the University of Pittsburgh, the Historical society of Western Pennsylvania, which had charge of the celebration undertook to combine the observance of these two events. An account of the ceremony is described in the July number of the *Western historical magazine.*

An interesting and well-written account entitled "A tour in 1807 down the Cumberland, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers from Nashville to New

Orleans,'' is found in the April, 1919, number of the *Tennessee historical magazine.* This is supplemented by carefully edited footnotes which add greatly to the value of the narrative.

Mr. Van Lieu Minor, former head of the department of history and economics in the Middle Tennessee normal at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, is engaged in graduate work at the University of Michigan, being on leave of absence.

An extremely interesting meeting of the Ohio valley historical association was held at Berea college, Berea, Kentucky, October 16-18, 1919. The custom of emphasising the history of the locality where the meeting is held was followed in the formal program on this occasion; the social events included receptions at ''Boone's Tavern'' and at the ''Log Cabin,'' the home of the ''Fireside industries,'' as well as an excursion to the ''Indian fort,'' a relic of prehistoric times commanding the finest mountain view in the region, and portions of the old ''Wilderness Road.'' At the business meeting Mr. W. H. Siebert of Ohio state university was elected president; and Miss Elizabeth Crowther of Western college for women, Oxford, Ohio, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

A clever address delivered by Mr. Emilius O. Randall before the Ohio society of New York on November 12, 1917, entitled ''High lights in Ohio literature,'' is published in the *Ohio archaeological and historical quarterly* for July, 1919; it gives many interesting historical facts relative to the settlement and development of the state as well as an excellent summary of Ohio literary achievements. In the same issue will be found an account of Ohio in the war of 1812, based chiefly on excerpts from the first newspaper published in the Western Reserve, the *Trump of fame.* This organ was edited by Thomas D. Webb, and its first publication was on June 16, 1812.

Mr. Chauncey S. Boucher, formerly at Washington university, St. Louis, is now in the department of American history at Ohio state university, Columbus.

The department of Indiana history and archives of the Indiana state library contemplates the publication in the near future of a calendar of the papers of John Tipton. These valuable manuscripts were secured by the department a few years ago and during the past year have been carefully classified and calendared. The immediate work has been accomplished by Miss Margaret Norton, under the direction of Mr. Harlow Lindley, director of the department.

Mr. William Sweet, professor of history at DePauw university, will give a series of lectures at Drew theological seminary, Madison, New Jersey, during the week of December 7-12, 1919. The general subject

of the lectures will be "The introduction of Methodism into the Mississippi valley."

Mr. Henry Noble Sherwood, professor of European history at Franklin college, Franklin, Indiana, has been made dean of that college.

Mr. George B. Manhart has been appointed instructor in history at Depauw university. Mr. Manhart was for two years in war library service, and previous to that was instructor in history at Baker university.

The first number of volume two of the *Illinois Catholic historical review* gives good indication that the standard set by volume one is to be maintained. Topics of interest are: "A bit of history of the Franciscans in Illinois," "Old Kaskaskia days and ways," and "A chapter in Illinois finances." In addition an illuminating account of the French in Illinois is given by Joseph J. Thompson; his discussion, however, is open to the criticism that too much emphasis is placed on the element singled out, for the French are given credit for the entire work of exploration and settlement, for the whole work of planting Christianity in the state, and for being the deciding factor in bringing success to the Virginia conquest and giving to the United States a vast empire. Important as was the influence of the French, they can scarcely be given undivided honors.

According to the September issue of the *Wisconsin magazine of history*, the war history committee of that state appointed by the state council of defense in 1918 has made a notable historical drive to insure the current records of Wisconsin's part in the great war. The work is being carried on under the immediate direction of the state historical society. The "war mothers" of the state have been giving very active assistance in organizing the work in the various counties, and in collecting the military letters and pictures desired to make the work more complete.

From a bundle of old newspapers found in the garret of an old farmhouse in Stratham, New Hampshire, Herbert C. Varney secured the material for a very interesting paper entitled "Birth notices of a state." This is to be found in the *Minnesota history bulletin* for May, 1919.

A very systematic and complete study of the militia in Iowa has been made by Cyril P. Upham in the July number of the *Iowa journal of history and politics*. This is primarily an historical survey although it contains a plea for the organization of well-organized and drilled militia companies at the present day. Those interested in the settlement of Wisconsin and Minnesota will find an excellent article in the same magazine by Cardinal Goodwin.

The legislature of Iowa at the last session provided that in all three-year high schools the subjects of American history and civics of the state and nation be given for at least two semesters. In all four-year high schools the additional requirement is made of social problems and economics for one semester.

Mr. Louis Pelzer of the University of Iowa is at present working on a textbook on contemporary American history to cover the period after 1877.

Mr. Arthur Henry Hirsch, who has been at the head of the history work at Morningside College at Sioux City, Iowa, has been chosen to fill a similar position at Ohio Wesleyan university at Delaware.

Missouri has already begun to publish her war records in a series of articles appearing in the *Missouri historical review*. The sixth in the series, in the July, 1919, issue, treats of the work of the war governor of the state, Frederick D. Gardner, and of his activities during the war. Missouri, it may be mentioned, has shown its appreciation of its soldier sons in a very practical way by making every effort to help returned soldiers find jobs.

Charles M. Correll, formerly of the State normal school, Mayville, North Dakota, has accepted the chair of history of Fargo college.

Mr. Harrison A. Trexler, formerly of the department of economics in the University of Montana, has transferred to Whitman college, Walla Walla, Washington.

A study of the newspapers of Mississippi between the years 1835 and 1844 has been made by James E. Winston in the *Southwestern historical quarterly* for July, 1919. He has studied especially the question of the Texas annexation sentiment in Mississippi, and the result of his investigation is an informing piece of historical work.

Mr. Percy S. Flippin is now serving as professor of history at Mercer university.